

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-13 and 15. Please amend claim 14 as shown in the following Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) ~~The virtual tape stacker according to claim 11 further~~ A virtual tape stacker comprising:

a plurality of virtual tape volumes configured for storing sequential data on a random access data storage device;

a volume management table indicating a sequential order for said virtual tape volumes and a loaded one of said volumes;

a virtual tape manager adapted to transfer data between said loaded volume and an application program; and

a physical tape volume,

wherein a last one of said virtual tape volumes is previous to said physical tape volume in said sequential order and a first one of said virtual tape volumes is next from said physical tape volume in said sequential order.

Claim 15 (canceled)